

SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION

F-7305

Ser. No. 10/072,723

Claims

1. (Original) A device (6) for producing a folding top (2) of a convertible, which comprises a frame region (4) for gripping a windowpane (3), especially a rear window, at least partially, a part (5) of the folding top (2), 5 encircling the frame region (4), being holdable and connectable with the windowpane (3), in the device (6), wherein the device (6) comprises a fixing device (8) for holding the windowpane (3) in an accurately fitting manner with respect to the frame region (4).

10 2. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the fixing device (8) comprises thrust elements (9), which are movable in the plane of the inserted windowpane (3) and can act over different windowpane edges (11) on the windowpane (3).

15 3. (Original) The device of claim 2, wherein the thrust elements (9), coupled with one another, are movable and, for fixing the windowpane (3), can be moved from an open position, in which the windowpane (3) can be brought along, into a closed position, in which in the window pane (3), brought along, is bordered on all sides.

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4. (Currently amended) The device of claim 1, wherein the thrust elements (9) have been taken up in sliding-block guides (10), which are, is essentially, at right angles to the edge of the windowpane.

5. 5. (Currently amended) The device of claim 1, wherein the thrust elements (9) are held at a subassembly (21), which, in an open position, enables the insertion of the folding top part (5) bordering the frame region (4) and, in the closed position, essentially overlaps the inserted folding top part (5).

6. 6. (Original) The device of claim 5, wherein the subassembly (21) comprises two pivotable supporting frames (22; 23) for thrust elements (9).

10 7. 7. (Original) The device of claim 6, wherein the supporting frames (22; 23) for the thrust elements (9) can be coupled with one another (14) in the closed position and all thrust elements (9) can be moved by means of a driving organ (12).

15 8. 8. (Original) A device (6) for producing a folding top (2) of a convertible, the folding top (2) comprising a frame region (4) for gripping, at least partially, a windowpane (3), especially a rear window, a part (5) of the folding top

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(2), including the frame region (4) being holdable and connectable with the windowpane (3) in the device (6), wherein the device (6) as an electrode (26), which is fitted to the course of the frame region (4) and is provided with a shoulder (27).

5 9. (Original) The device of claim 8, wherein the shoulder (27) is formed over the whole course of the electrode (26), which follows the frame region (4).

10 10. (Original) A method for connecting a folding top, encircling a frame part for a windowpane, with a windowpane, the windowpane being enclosed between the part, encircling the frame region and a covering strip and connected with both by means of electrodes by introducing heat, wherein the folding top part, encircling the frame region, and the covering strip are connected with the windowpane in one step and the covering strip is connected with the part of the folding top, encircling the frame region, in a different step.

15 11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the covering strip and the part of the folding top, encircling the frame region, are connected with the windowpane in a first step, subsequently the means, acting on the edges of the

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windowpane in order to fix it, are released and, in a second step, the covering strip is connected with the part of the folding top, encircling the frame region.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1-11. (Cancelled)

12. (New) A method for connecting windowpane to a folding roof, comprising the steps of:

providing the folding roof with a frame region peripherally surrounding an opening for the windowpane;

aligning the windowpane on the frame region such that a first peripheral window edge region of a first side of the windowpane faces and overlaps the frame portion and fixing the windowpane in position;

aligning a covering strip, for surrounding and covering the windowpane, on the windowpane and the folding roof such that an inner peripheral region of the covering strip faces and overlaps a second peripheral window edge region of a second side of the windowpane, and an outer peripheral region of the covering strip faces and overlaps an outer frame region of the folding roof which surrounds the frame region and the windowpane;

in a first heat applying step, applying heat via a first electrode to the inner peripheral region of the covering strip, the first and second peripheral window edge regions, and the frame region to effect bonding therebetween; and

in a second heat applying step following the first heat applying step, applying heat via a second electrode, movable relative the first electrode in alternative succession, to the outer peripheral region of the covering strip, and the outer frame region to effect bonding therebetween.

13. (New) The method of claim 12 wherein:

the aligning step includes moving the windowpane to a position aligned with the frame region by moving holding elements into an engagement position engaging side edge portions of the windowpane;

the first heat applying step is conducted with the holding elements in the engagement position; and

the second heat applying step includes moving the holding elements to a disengagement position moved away from the windowpane prior to the applying of heat via the second electrode.

14. (New) The method of claim 13 wherein the holding elements are mutually moved by a moving mechanism to engage the windowpane on all sides when in the engagement position.

15. (New) The method of claim 14 wherein the holding elements are mutually moved in sliding block guides substantially at right angles to the side edge portions of the windowpane.

16. (New) The method of claim 15 wherein the method includes:
mounting the holding elements in a subassembly which is movably supported on a base assembly and the step of aligning includes:
moving the subassembly to a position allowing access to a support surface of the base assembly;
aligning the frame region at a predetermined position on the support surface;
placing the windowpane on the frame region;
moving the subassembly to a closed position; and
moving the holding elements into the engagement position to align the windowpane with the frame region.

17. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

providing the frame region with a fold overlap wherein an overlap portion is situated at a common level with the folding top and faces and defines a width of the frame region which corresponds in width to the first peripheral window edge region of the first side of the windowpane; and

providing a support surface electrode in the support surface for effecting heating, the support surface electrode having a stepped configuration for accepting the fold overlap such that the overlap portion is situated at the common level with the folding top, the support surface electrode being operable in combination with the first and second electrodes.

18. (New) The method of claim 12 wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

providing a support surface for supporting the folding top;
providing the frame region with a fold overlap wherein an overlap portion is situated at a common level with the folding top and faces and defines a width of the frame region which corresponds in width to the first peripheral window edge region of the first side of the windowpane; and

providing a support surface electrode in the support surface for effecting heating, the support surface electrode having a stepped configuration for accepting the fold overlap such that the overlap portion is situated at the common level with the folding top, the support surface electrode being operable in combination with the first and second electrodes.

19. (New) The method of claim 18 wherein:

the aligning step includes moving the windowpane to a position aligned with the frame region by moving holding elements into an engagement position engaging side edge portions of the windowpane;

the first heat applying step is conducted with the holding elements in the engagement position; and

the second heat applying step includes moving the holding elements to a disengagement position moved away from the windowpane prior to the applying of heat via the second electrode.

20. (New) The method of claim 19 wherein the holding elements are mutually moved by a moving mechanism to engage the windowpane on all sides when in the engagement position.

21. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein the method includes:

mounting the holding elements in a subassembly which is movably supported on a base assembly including the support surface, and the step of aligning includes:

- moving the subassembly to a position allowing access to the support surface of the base assembly;
- aligning the frame region at a predetermined position on the support surface;
- placing the windowpane on the frame region;
- moving the subassembly to a closed position; and
- moving the holding elements into the engagement position to align the windowpane with the frame region.

22. (New) The method of claim 19 wherein the method includes:

mounting the holding elements in a subassembly which is movably supported on a base assembly including the support surface, and the step of aligning includes:

- moving the subassembly to a position allowing access to the support surface of the base assembly;
- aligning the frame region at a predetermined position on the support surface;

placing the windowpane on the frame region;
moving the subassembly to a closed position; and
moving the holding elements into the engagement position
to align the windowpane with the frame region.

23. (New) The method of claim 13 wherein the method includes:
mounting the holding elements in a subassembly which is movably
supported on a base assembly and the step of aligning includes:
moving the subassembly to a position allowing access to a
support surface of the base assembly;
aligning the frame region at a predetermined position on the
support surface;
placing the windowpane on the frame region;
moving the subassembly to a closed position; and
moving the holding elements into the engagement position
to align the windowpane with the frame region.